

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

1 – 29 (canceled)

30. (original) A package for containing and dispensing wire from a coil of wire, the wire coil having an axis, a radially outer surface about the axis providing an outer coil diameter, and axially opposite top and bottom ends defining a coil height, said package comprising an outer carton having a bottom and four planar side panels extending upwardly from said bottom a distance greater than said height, each said side panel having an inwardly facing side surface; an octagonal inner liner within said outer carton, said liner having eight vertically extending planar walls wherein every other one of said eight walls engages a portion of the inwardly facing side surface of a different one of said side panels of said outer carton, adjacent ones of said eight walls being joined at a liner corner; and a retainer ring engaging the top end of the wire coil, said retainer ring having a substantially planar body including an inner opening and an outer edge comprising a plurality of nodes extending radially outward beyond the outer surface of the wire coil, each of said nodes being joined to an adjacent node by a node edge extending inwardly of the outer surface of the coil, at least one of said nodes interengaging at least one of said liner corners to prevent said retainer ring from rotating relative to said inner liner.

31. (original) The package according to claim 30, wherein said nodes have arcuate, radially outer end edges which are concave with respect to said opening.

32. (original) The package according to claim 31, wherein said node edge is convex with respect to said opening.

33. (original) The package according to claim 32, wherein said coil of wire has a radially inner surface, the package further including an inner sleeve supporting the inner surface of the coil, said inner sleeve having an outside diameter and said opening of said retainer ring having a diameter greater than said outside diameter.

34. (original) The package according to claim 30, wherein said nodes have radially outer edges intersecting one another at an angle.

35. (original) The package according to claim 34, wherein said node edge is linear.

36. (original) The package according to claim 35, wherein said coil of wire has a radially inner surface, the package further including an inner sleeve supporting the inner surface of the coil, said inner sleeve having an outside diameter and said opening of said retainer ring having a diameter greater than said outside diameter.

37. (original) The package according to claim 34, wherein said radially outer edges are arcuate.

38. (original) The retainer according to claim 37, wherein said node edge includes two inwardly curved edges which intersect at a common central point between adjacent nodes.

39. (original) The retainer according to claim 38, wherein said plurality of nodes is eight equally spaced nodes.

40. (original) A container for storing and dispensing a continuous wire from a coil of wire, the wire coil being donut-shaped and having an outwardly facing surface having an outer coil diameter, an inwardly facing surface having an inner coil diameter and top and bottom surfaces defining a coil height, said container comprising an outer carton having a rectangular bottom and side walls extending upwardly from said bottom, each said side wall having inwardly and outwardly facing surfaces; an inner liner including eight upwardly extending liner walls each having inwardly and outwardly facing surfaces, said inner liner having an octagonal cross-sectional configuration, every other one of said outwardly facing surfaces of said liner walls engaging a different one of said inwardly facing surfaces of said sides walls, said inwardly facing surfaces of said liner walls engaging the outwardly facing surface of the wire coil; and a substantially planar retainer ring having an opening producing an inner edge and having an outer peripheral edge, said peripheral edge including eight equally spaced nodes which extend radially outwardly beyond the outer surface of the wire coil, each of said nodes being joined to an adjacent node by at least one inwardly extending curvilinear node edge producing a gap between said peripheral edge and said inner liner, said retainer ring being positioned on the top surface of the wire coil, and said nodes engaging at least one of said liner walls to maintain said retainer ring substantially centered within said side walls of said outer carton and to prevent said retainer ring from rotating relative to said inner liner.

41. (original) The container according to claim 39, wherein said at least one node edge extends inwardly of the outer surface of the wire coil.

42. (original) The container according to claim 41, further including an inner sleeve supporting the inner surface of the coil, said inner sleeve having an outside diameter and said opening of said retainer ring being circular and having a diameter greater than said outside diameter.

43. (original) The container according to claim 39, further including an inner sleeve supporting the inner surface of the coil, said inner sleeve having an outside diameter and said opening of said retainer ring being circular and having a diameter greater than said outside diameter.

44. (original) The container according to claim 40, wherein said at least one node edge is two inwardly extending curved edges which intersect at a common central point between adjacent nodes.

45. (original) A container for storing and dispensing a continuous wire from a coil of wire, the wire coil being donut-shaped and having an outwardly facing surface having an outer coil diameter, an inwardly facing surface having an inner coil diameter and top and bottom surfaces defining a coil height; said container comprising: an outer carton having a circular bottom wall and a cylindrical side wall extending upwardly from said bottom wall and having an inner surface, a plurality of supports equally spaced apart about said inner surface and extending upwardly therealong from said bottom wall, said supports engaging the outwardly facing surface of the wire coil, and a substantially planar retainer ring having an opening producing an inner edge and an outer peripheral edge including a plurality of nodes which extend radially outwardly beyond the outer surface of the wire coil, adjacent ones of said nodes being joined by an inwardly extending node edge, said retainer ring being positioned on the top surface of the wire coil, and at least one of said node edges engaging one of said supports to prevent said retainer ring from rotating relative to said side wall.

46. (original) The container according to claim 45, wherein said nodes have arcuate radially outer edges which are concave relative to said opening.

47. (original) The container according to claim 46, wherein said node edge is arcuate and convex relative to said opening.

48. (original) The container according to claim 45, wherein said plurality of supports is four supports.

49. (original) The container according to claim 48, wherein said plurality of nodes is four nodes.

50. (original) The container according to claim 49, wherein said supports are cylindrical in cross-section transverse to said sidewall.

51 – 61 (canceled)